

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b). During 1996-97, 158 new coaches have been allotted to Southern Railway for conversion of 2625/2626 Kerala Express into air brake.

(c) Does not arise.

Constitution of Passenger Services Committee

4110. DR. C. SILVERA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Passenger Services Committee has been constituted;

(b) if so, the composition and terms of references thereof;

(c) the guidelines prescribed for selection/appointment of Chairman and Members of the Committee;

(d) whether this Committee is different to the Passenger Amenities Committee;

(e) if so, the details thereof;

(f) whether both these Committees have preference for Headquarters reservation quota on all trains and in all classes; and

(g) if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) A statement is attached.

(c) The Chairman and Members are publicmen and as such, no eligibility criteria have been fixed for such appointments.

(d) and (e). The Passenger Amenities Committee has been constituted to monitor the passenger amenities provided at Railway Stations and on trains, whereas the Passenger Services Committee has been constituted to look into the various aspects of Catering/Vending Stalls/Trolleys/Book Stalls/Tourist Informations Centres on Railway premises etc.

(f) and (g). The Chairman and Members of the Committees are given due preference for allotment of Emergency Quotas while travelling on duty. The requests sent by them sponsoring allotment of quota in favour of other persons are considered alongwith other such requests on merit and no special preference is given to them.

STATEMENT

The composition of Passenger Services Committee is as under :

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| (a) Shri Shiv Prasad Singh.
Advocate Hajipur, Distt.
Vaishali (Bihar) | Chairman |
| (b) Shri S.A. Hashmi
Jamiat Building,
Gali Qasim Jan,
Ballimaran,
Delhi | Member |
| (c) Shri R.K. Sisodia
V and PO Bhaura
Distt. Dhanbad,
Bihar | Member |
| (d) Smt. Swaraj Lamba.
No. 306, Building No. 34,
Adhishwar Apartments,
Ferozshah Road,
New Delhi | Member |
| (e) Shri Suryamani Bhigode
Joginagar, Post
Bhagwanpur,
Nagpur | Member |

The terms of reference of the Committee are as under :

- (i) To review the size, design and location of catering/vending stalls/trolleys and all others stalls like book stalls and other miscellaneous stalls PCO/ISD/STD booth, and recommend measures for standardisation of the design, size as well as the location so as to ensure that they not only match with the aesthetics of the station, but also take up minimum space and do not create hinderance to movement and circulation of passengers. They would specifically recommend steps to reduce congestion at important stations and platforms caused due to proliferation of such services and their installation in a haphazard manner.
- (ii) The Committee would study the problem of unauthorised hawking/vending at stations and in trains, identify vulnerable locations, sections and trains, recommend concrete measures to eliminate this menace.
- (iii) The Committee would also review the items which are presently permitted to be sold at these various stalls and suggest their standardisation. They would recommend items which would be included for sale to public without any risk to health and hygiene

and in no way offend public taste and sensitivity.

- (iv) The Committee would examine and recommend on the requirement for setting up of tourist information booths as well as kiosks for guiding travelling public regarding availability of other modes of transport, city maps etc.
- (v) The Committee would examine and recommend regarding sale of books and publications depending on the regional and territorial requirements as also sale of literature for permitting themes of national integration, social justice, communal harmony, rural development etc. The Committee would also examine the kind of music to be played in trains at Railway Stations as also the messages given through the visual media like CCTVs at Stations etc.

Cellular Telephone Instruments

4111. SHRI RAM TAHAL CHAUDHARY : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the major companies are selling cellular telephone instruments in the country;

(b) if so, the prices of such instruments in the country as on November 1, 1996;

(c) the prices of the same instruments of the respective companies in London, New York, Tokyo and Singapore alongwith the comparison of prices with the instruments available in India;

(d) the reasons for allowing such expensive instruments to be sold at such higher prices; and

(e) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) to (e). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

Remuneration of Artists, Tirupathi

4112. SHRI SUBRAHMANYAM NELAVALA : Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state :

(a) whether All India Radio Tirupathi has not paid remuneration to artists since May, 1996;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) the steps taken to expedite the payment?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c). The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

[Translation]

Halt of Manmad Mumbai/Panchvati Express Train at Igatpuri Railway Station

4113. SHRI BHIMRAO VISHNUJI BADADE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether Manmad-Mumbai Panchavati Express Train does not halt at Igatpuri railway station;

(b) if so, whether the Government propose to provide halt to the said train at Igatpuri Railway Station for the benefit of vast industrial area;

(c) if so, the time by which the halt is likely to be provided;

(d) if not, the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government propose to fully/partially convert the train into an airconditioned train; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) 1401/1402 Manmad-Mumbai Panchvati Express is already stopping at Igatpuri in both the directions.

(b) to (d). Do not arise.

(e) and (f). At present, there is no proposal to convert 1401/1402 Panchvati Express into a fully air-conditioned train. However, an air-conditioned Chair car is available in 1401/1402 Panchvati Express.

[English]

Setting up of A.C.D.C. Locomotive in Panchavati Express

4114. SHRI RAJARAM P. GODASE : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) the Government propose to setup an A.C.D.C. locomotive in the Panchavati Express running between Nasik and Mumai;

(b) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) Yes Sir.

(b) 5 Nos AC/DC locomotives are available in Central Railway and are undergoing services trials.

(c) Does not arise.

Telephone Exchanges in Bihar

4115. SHRI DINESH CHANDRA YADAV : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether telephone exchange in many villages of Saharsa and Supaul districts of Bihar are on the verge of closure due to ill-maintenance; and